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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 24 | Min 20 | Humidity 85% Partly Cloudy Sensex 65,479 | Nifty 19,389 | Gold 58,458 | Silver 69,681 | Dollar 81.98 | Euro 89.36 | GBP 104.32

JUST BEST FRIENDS

How to live with strays, gated community shows the way

PAGE 3

STUMBLING BLOCK

Trees that fell in Cubbon Park yet to be cleared out

PAGE 5

Suburban rail, get on track already

While K-RIDE gets a move on corridor 4 work, experts slam delays

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The Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) opened a tender for civil work construction activities of Corridor 4 of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) on Tuesday. The 46.44-km Kanaka line will connect Heelalige in south Bengaluru to Rajanukunte in the north.

K-RIDE had earlier announced that the bid for the second corridor would be invited after the Karnataka assembly elections held in May. The construction bid for the corridor was first called in January this year.

"We had invited construction bids in January too, however, due to various reasons such as the model code of conduct during the assembly elections and the upgradation of the GoK procurement website for tendering led to delays and the tender is now being opened again," said a senior K-RIDE official.

The contract will be awarded two to three months after opening the tender, as technical and financial bids are to be evaluated.

Officials informed BM that K-RIDE had requested South Western Railways to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

OOPS!

Your footpath was just gobbled up

To develop park near Mayo Hall in 'no need of upgrade', BBMP demolishes footpath

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is supposed to launch special drives against footpath encroachments in the city. But what it usually ends up doing is itself encroach upon footpaths. This time, the BBMP has eaten up a footpath in the Central Business District (CBD) area.

The BBMP has taken up work on development of Dr Ferdinand Kittel Park situated near Mayo Hall on MG Road. Many pedestrians are of the opinion that there was no need to upgrade or develop the park as it was already in a good condition. They said that there was a provision for a footpath around the park and it too was quite alright.

"I do not know what made the BBMP spend crores of rupees for the development of Dr Ferdinand Kittel Park. I noticed the demolition of a well-maintained footpath while the park was being developed. I told the workers to ensure that there is a footpath for the benefit of pedestrians but nobody listened. I have complained to the BBMP Horticulture Superintendent about it. He has assured me that he would look into the matter," said Brahmananda Reddy, a pedestrian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"I directed the workers to stop the work. The BBMP Projects Division has taken up the development of the park. I will inform them
– Sudheendra Kumar, BBMP Superintendent (Horticulture)

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Rhythms and beats

Here's a chance for dance lovers to watch a Bharatanatyam Dance Drama, Shankari. The performance is being presented by Shraddha Dance Ensemble as part of the Nritya Rangoli organised by the Academy of Music, Bengaluru.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: July 7; 6 pm

02 Love for Manto

Bombay Theatre Group presents 'Jaam-E-Shahadat', a theatrical adaptation of Saadat Hasan Manto's story Shahid-Saaz. The play features Narendra Sachar and Sanjeev Mehta and is directed by the former. The story is set in the post-partition era of 1948, and the journey is about a Punjabi migrant from Kathiawad, Gujarat, to Lahore, Pakistan.
Where: Atta Galatta, 178, 5th Main, 9th Cross, 1st Stage Indiranagar (opp Cafe Terra)
When: Friday, July 7; 7 pm

03 DJ evening

Get ready to experience an electrifying night with DJ Rohan Kapoor this July as he takes you on a musical journey. Known to effortlessly adapt to the crowd's energy, Rohan transforms every moment into a spine-tingling adventure.
Where: Raahi, Neo Bar and Kitchen
When: July 8; 7 pm onwards

'This exam is unjustified'

Final-year MBBS students oppose NExT exam; say exam announced for 2024 is at too short notice for them to prepare and adapt to new pattern

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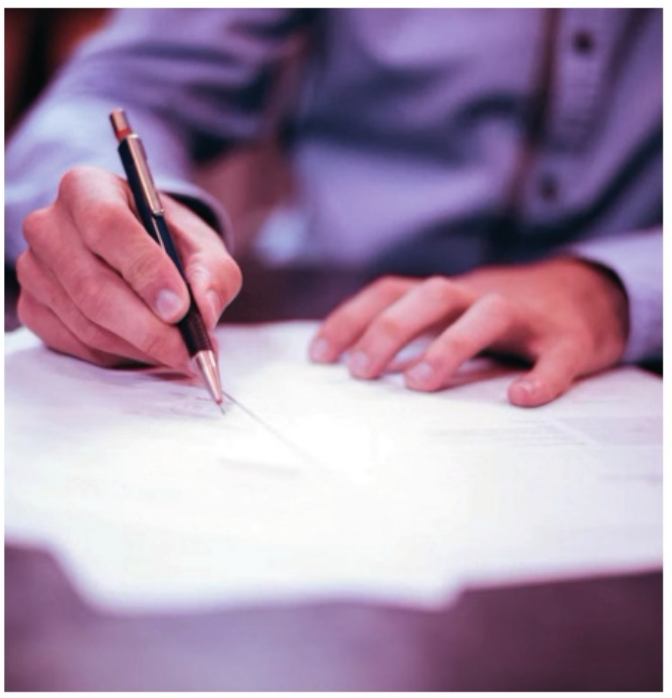
With the National Medical Commissions (NMCs) announcement to hold the National Exit Test (NExT) that will replace the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) postgraduate programmes, the undergraduate (UG) final year students of all medical colleges of the 2019 batch are opposing the decision and are asking for the cancellation of NExT.

Many medical students across the country from different states have already started protesting against the injustice done to the 2019 UG medical students. In Karnataka, some of the final-year students who spoke to Bangalore Mirror as well showed their disapproval of the NExT again. The students pointed out that the announcement has come in very late and is very short notice for the students to be prepared for the exam.

A final-year MBBS student studying in a medical college affiliated to the Rajiv Gandhi University Health Sciences (RGUHS) said, "The announcement of the NExT exam for 2019 is a gross violation of Section 49 of the NMC Act. We knew nothing about NExT when we got our admission in 2019. Many colleges had already started their first year classes in the month of July of 2019, but the NMC Act was published later in August. This does not apply to us. Section 49 highlights that any student who is studying for a degree, diploma, or certificate in any medical institution immediately before the commencement of the Act shall continue to study and complete the course for such degree, diploma, or certificate."



The students pointed out that they will have to pay an amount of Rs 2,000 for a mock paper practice test

The NExT exam is said to replace the NEET PG exams. The NExT exam will have two steps. Step 1 will be a theoretical examination with multiple-choice questions (MCQs). The paper will be a long MCQ-based exam. Only those who pass the exam will qualify to pursue a one-year internship. Post-internship, the students can then take the NExT 2, which will be practical-based, and after passing this exam, they can pursue their PG.

The NExT exam is said to be conducted in May 2024. However, the students stated that it is still too short notice for them to prepare and that they are not aware of how this new pattern of exam will work for them.

"In many colleges in Karnataka, the academic year only started in the month of May. There needs to be sufficient time to even finish this year's syllabus. For 3.5 years, we were following the older pattern of giving the exams, and now we have to suddenly adapt to a completely new pattern. While the mock tests are announced at the end of July, we don't really know how much that will even help. All the students are extremely worried and confused at the moment. We are standing for #Nonextfor2019batch," said another final-year MBBS student from a medical college in Bengaluru.

> **"For 3.5 years, we were following the older pattern of giving the exams, and now we have to suddenly adapt to a completely new pattern** –a student

The students also pointed out in a notification that for conducting the mock test, they will have to pay an amount of Rs 2,000 for a mock paper practice test.

"What is the point of taking money for the mock test? This exam looks like another way of earning money. The mock test that will be conducted is also for more than 5 hours in the day, which will take away our entire day. It will interfere with our college lectures and clinical postings for the day," said another student from a medical college in Gadag.

Sanjay Raj, State Secretary, University Incharge, RGUHS, NSUI Karnataka, said, "The NMC webinar conducted to let the students and faculty know about the NExT exam should have been a two-way communication rather than a one-way talk. All the queries of the students should have been taken up and answered. It has created more doubts and confusion."

Footpath vanishes in CBD area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Gupta Layout. It is learnt the BBMP has allocated Rs 2.50 crore for the development of the park. A few pedestrians said that they have no objection to the development of the park but they want the footpath to be restored. "There is no footpath along the roads at many locations in the city. The footpath adjacent to Dr Ferdinand Kittel is a must for pedestrians. The BBMP officials or engineers must visit the spot and direct the contractor to restore the footpath that was demolished," said MS Bopanna, a resident of Victoria Layout.

No traffic light

A few pedestrians said that they have been facing problems to reach Mayo Hall from the footpath along Central Mall as there is no traffic signal to halt speeding vehicles coming from Trinity Circle, for a while to facilitate pedestrians reaching the other side of the road. "It is very tough for pedestrians, especially senior citizens, to reach Mayo Hall if the footpath along Dr Ferdinand Kittel Park is not restored," said Mukunda N, a pedestrian. Demanding that the BBMP restore the footpath, Professor MN Srihari, a traffic expert, said the footpath is essential for pedestrians. "No one has the right to either demolish or encroach the footpaths in the city. Footpaths are a must for the safety of pedestrians," said Prof. Srihari.

BBMP Superintendent (Horticulture) Sudheendra Kumar told BM that he has received the complaint on the demolition of the footpath along Dr Ferdinand Kittel Park. "I visited the spot but the contractor was not present at the time. I directed the workers to stop the work.

I will visit the spot again. The BBMP Projects Division has taken up the development of the park. I will inform them," said Sudheendra Kumar.

Development work is in progress at Dr Ferdinand Kittel Park on MG Road

Man's best friend for a reason

Amid news of 'stray dog menace', real life stories highlight how dogs can become protectors

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Some of the stray dogs adopted by the community in SJR Blue Waters, a residential complex in Haralur

Meesho, Mojo, Swiggy, Dunzo, Zepto, Charlie, Bella, Yulu, and Zeta - these are the stray dogs of SJR Blue Waters, a residential community in Haralur.

The apartment complex, with nearly 300 families, has adopted nine street dogs as their community animals. A group of considerate residents from the layout has also appointed a feeder to ensure that the animals are fed on time and are cared for.

"We are a group of nearly 15 individuals who take care of these dogs living with us inside our gated community. We pool funds to arrange food for them, aside from taking care of their medical expenses. We started the initiative to get street dogs neutered and vaccinated in the area nearly two years ago. Currently, there are no unneutered strays within a one-kilometre radius of our society, and over the next four to five years, we will be a stray dog-free society," said Monica, a resident of SJR Blue Waters.

Amid all the clamour raised around the stray dog issue, a handful of gated societies in the city are blazing the trail on stray dog management. Well-fed, vaccinated, and neutered, these dogs live inside the gated communities, sometimes ensuring security for the residents too.

Metropole Apartment complex, yet another gated layout in Indiranagar, has four vaccinated and neutered street dogs that have small cubicles with gunny bag beds as their resting places inside the compound. The dogs have been guarding their society for two years now.

"We had to let go of our security guards due to financial constraints during the pandemic.

These dogs have been our caretakers since then. They recognise all the residents and allow delivery persons to enter. Any suspicious activity leads to the pack getting wary, and they start barking to alert us. Society's kids play around them freely, and we feel all four dogs are watchful and protective of them," said Pavitra V, a resident of Metropole Apartment.

Salarpuria Sattva Greenage in Bommanahalli is yet another gated residential society in the city that has a community dog living inside the layout. The layout of about 1,500 families has amended ways to accommodate the animal. "Residents feed him home-cooked food daily, and the dog safeguards us from intruders," said Prasanna K, a resident.

Residents from these pliable societies say the benefits of having community dogs are many. Well-fed and neutered or spayed, these dogs are not only complaisant while guarding their spaces fiercely, but they also provide ecosystem services and keep the population of rats and rodents under check.

"Once they start getting food and are neutered, they calm down drastically. There are nine stray dogs inside our society, but we hardly hear them barking. Earlier, they used to roam around the layout and fight over food. Now they patiently wait for their meals," said another resident of SJR Blue Waters.

Century Eden is yet another accommodating layout located on the city outskirts. The gated housing society has adopted 11 community dogs.

"We have 11 vaccinated and neutered street dogs living inside the layout. While the benefits they provide are many, it is the joy of taking care of the voiceless that pushed us towards adopting them," said Rajeshwari Mysore, a resident.

According to animal welfare workers and experts, while it is a trend to announce stray dogs as a nuisance, there is ignorance regarding the benefits of having community dogs.

> **"Earlier, they used to roam around the layout and fight over food. Now they patiently wait for their meals"**
> – Resident of SJR Blue Waters

"One of their unique qualities is to differentiate between a friend and a foe. So, while they are extremely loyal to the communities feeding them, they protect their humans equally fiercely. Community dogs also create an inclusive environment, providing our children an opportunity to learn coexistence. Lastly, relocating street dogs amounts to animal cruelty and is a punishable offense as per the PCA ACT and ABC Rule of 2001," said Chitra AmzarewaleSapre, a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Bengaluru chapter.

Out of shadows, and into the spotlight

Efforts to empower sex workers and sexual minorities in Karnataka have yielded successful results, evident from the increasing number of these individuals becoming entrepreneurs. Currently, there are approximately 700 such entrepreneurs (17 in Bengaluru). It is expected that the number will reach 1,000 by the end of this year.

The entrepreneurs affirm that they now lead dignified lives.

"Begging and sex work were my only means of survival for 10 years. However, after attending the MOVE training conducted by the Best Practices Foundation, I started my own vegetable shop. Now, I have given up both begging and sex work," shared Sanamahaji Shivanagi, a 21-year-old transwoman from Bagalkot.

Dr Sangeetha Purushothaman, Executive Director of BPF, which conducted a comprehensive study on the economic situation and prospects of GSM communities in Karnataka, said, "A recent study on the transgender community has revealed stark inequalities." This extensive study, conducted by an NGO encompassed 17 districts in Karnataka, assessing the community's capital and overall well-being. The research unveiled the community's limited access to physical, natural, and financial capital, as well as their low quality of life.

The study also proposed strategies to enhance the livelihood and economic prospects of marginalised communities. It assessed the economic status of the GSM community using five metrics: social capital, human capital, physical capital, natural capital, and financial capital. The findings revealed that the proportion of sex workers within the GSM community increased from 11% to 40% during the pandemic. Monthly average incomes also declined by nearly 40%, with 70% of respondents reporting no savings at all. The proportion of respondents having three meals a day has also decreased.

The Gyan international symposium, held at the Bangalore International Centre in Domlur, served as a platform for sharing best practices on livelihoods among grassroots participants. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Robbers strike in wee hours, will police help?

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There is a growing demand for intensified police patrolling to ensure the safety of individuals who venture out during the early morning hours. Incidents involving attacks on people during this time have seen a recent surge in the city, report several citizens.

Recounting a distressing incident, a resident of Cox Town shared, "On June 11, around 3:50 am, a horrifying assault took place in Cox Town. An unidentified person confronted a driver, demanding his mobile phone and cash. When the driver resisted, the assailant viciously attacked him, inflicting three stab wounds. The entire incident was captured by a CCTV camera. Similar assaults, where attackers brandish knives and machetes, have become frequent in areas like Shivajinagar, Shoolay, Cox Town, Banaswadi railway station under bridge, and Cantonment Road. Several early morning commuters have fallen victim to these attacks, losing their valuables. This necessitates urgent security enhancements."

Another concerned resident voiced their plea, stating, "We earnestly request the police to increase their patrol activities. One of the reasons for this is that criminals perceive a lack of police presence during the early hours, making individuals engaged in activities like vegetable collection, milk delivery, fruit vending, and others easy targets."

> **"An unidentified person confronted a driver, demanding his mobile phone and cash. When he resisted, he was attacked**
> – Resident of Cox Town

Additionally, there is a growing community of people who leave their homes early for catching buses, trains, or engaging in morning walks, all of whom require protection.

It is crucial for the police to intervene and provide the necessary security measures, they added.

Skywalk with a twist

'Boomerang skywalk' to benefit commuters at Anjaneya Temple junction soon

A 3D print of the design of the skywalk at the Anjaneya Temple junction; construction will reportedly be completed in another two months

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Over hundreds of residents and many people working in offices near Graphite India Main Road stand to benefit from a skywalk that is being constructed at the Anjaneya Temple junction.

The skywalk will be designed in a boomerang shape and construction will be taken up under a Public-Private Partnership Model, according to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP. The Red Butterfly Private Limited company, along with architect Priya Ravishankar, have come up with this design that is said to be a boon for many pedestrians who find it troubling to cross the busy junction on a daily basis.

Construction work started three months ago, and the first stage is completed. The second part of the work is currently in progress and is expected to be completed soon. The skywalk will not resemble the straight platforms of traditional skywalks. It will instead have a 'boomerang' concept.

Ravishankar said, "As we have to connect two places at the spot, we wanted to have a T-shaped skywalk, but when we reconsidered the location. We also wanted to embrace the greenery around. When viewed from the top, the shape of the skywalk will resemble a boomerang. It will also represent the shape of a Gulmohar tree. Bengaluru is known as the garden city, and people here have a close connection with greenery, so we decided to design it in a similar way."

The skywalk is approximately 220 feet in length and will have three elevators. One elevator will be located near Prestige Park, another near Sattva Abhinav properties, and a third one near the Anjaneya temple side, which is an extension of Bagmane tech park.

> **"When viewed from the top, the shape of the skywalk will resemble a boomerang. It will also represent the shape of a Gulmohar tree**
>
> – Priya Ravishankar, architect

A member from Red Butterfly Private Limited said, "The project would have been finished earlier, but we encountered issues such as shifting underground pipelines and electric lines to carry out the work. Apart from that, we are aiming to use high-quality materials for the skywalk to ensure its durability for a long time. The structure is heavier compared to other skywalks and will be more aesthetically pleasing."

Residents of Kundalahalli, AECS Layout, Green Domain layout, and people working at Bagmane tech park and the surrounding areas will greatly benefit from the project. Commuters who want to reach Seetharampalya metro station can easily access the skywalk instead of waiting for a long time to cross the road.

The lifts that will be installed will have a capacity of 16 passengers at once, and there will also be access to staircases. Security personnel will be appointed 24/7 at the location.

Ravishankar added that the space below Prestige Technostar may be turned into a 'giving wall' where anyone can come forward and donate clothes at a kiosk located below the staircase.

The skywalk is expected to be completed in the next two months and will be open for pedestrians to use soon after.

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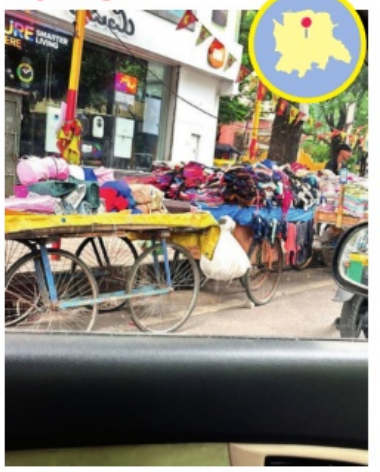
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Roadblock

Jayanagar



In Jayanagar 4th block, opposite the Jain temple, there is a blockage on the main road that affects the flow of traffic.

Out of order

Ramachandra Puram

In Ramachandra Puram, 3rd Cross, under Sri Dinesh Gundurao's constituency, the water purifier is not working.

Tender for corridor 4 opens today

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hand over 193 acres of railway land in January 2023 for the corridor and it is being followed up. Acquisition of private land is being done through KIADB and preliminary notification is being expedited. "There are no hurdles in the land acquisition process. State government's and railway lands are being leased to K-RIDE for the project," said the official.

Update on Corridor 2

According to K-RIDE, work on Chikkabanavara to Yeshwantpur (approximately 8 km) stretch is going on at war footing and is planned to be commissioned first. While preliminary works such as survey, ground penetration radar survey, soil investigation, alignment design, utility identification works, and coordination with all the stakeholders are completed, leveling of ground, setting up of casting yard, batching plant, design of minor and major bridges, U girder and I girder is in progress.

Moreover, the station building tender for Corridor-2 has been invited and will be opening on August 9, 2023. While nearly 157 acres of railway land required for the corridor was taken over in December last year, encroachments and structures on this land are still being removed.

BSRP too slow: activists

However, public mobility experts and activists in the city have raised concerns about the slow pace of BSRP and opine that K-RIDE is set to miss all project completion deadlines.

"If there is ever a textbook chapter written on 'lost opportunities', BSRP should be used as an example. The opportunity cost of not having suburban trains is tremendous for Bengaluru's citizens. While the 55 flyovers of the city have resulted in more than one crore vehicles on the city's roads, we have only 6,700 buses, partial metro connectivity, and zero suburban trains in the name of public transport," said Srinivas Alavilli, a city-based public mobility activist.

Experts say the fundamentals of the project have been forgotten by K-RIDE. "Bengalureans do not want a suburban train that looks like a metro. It has not only increased the project's cost dramatically but also has caused a lot of delays. Having air-conditioned compartments and stations is all very nice, but the main objective was to add capacity by leveraging the existing railway network," said another city-based public mobility expert.

Headless

Activists also highlight the importance of a dedicated head of a department in the timely implementation of a project. Notably, K-RIDE's MD's post fell vacant at a crucial time last year and the MD in charge was appointed after a couple of months. Experts suggest that the company should be quickly strengthened with full-time MD instead of an officer with additional charge as the MD.

"The work on Byappanahalli to Chikkabanavara corridor has been moving at a snail's pace and the project overall is falling behind drastically. The onus is on the state government to appoint a full-time MD who can accelerate the pace," said Raj Kumar Dugar, a public transport activist and founder of Citizen for Citizen.

Project has gained momentum: Singh

When BM reached out to K-RIDE officials, they said that initial teething troubles have smoothened out, funding from external funding agencies has been tied up and over the last few months, the project has gained significant momentum. "BSRP is a first of its kind project being taken up on a joint venture basis between the Ministry of Railways and the state government," said the official.

According to RK Singh Director, Planning and Projects, K-RIDE, BSRP being a multi-stakeholder dependent project, posting a senior IAS officer of GoK as MD, KRIDE, has only proved beneficial and the project has gained momentum. "After the appointment of the new MD, we have been able to resolve critical issues such as land acquisitions and other infringement removal. The existing rail network in the Bengaluru is different from other locations. Tracks from six directions join in Bengaluru. It is not possible to run suburban services on these tracks at even 10 minutes intervals, as the existing network sees high traffic from long-distance trains. While preparing a feasibility report for suburban services, SWR achieved the best possible solution as per available infrastructure and vacant railway land," said Singh.

BBMP has not found time to clear Cubbon Park's fallen trees

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Trees that had fallen due to heavy rains in Cubbon Park months ago are yet to be removed, complain walkers. However, Horticulture Department officials say that they were waiting for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) approval.

Nearly 59 trees and branches had fallen due to heavy rain over two months ago. The fallen trees lie on the walking pathway inside the park, blocking the area for walkers and joggers in the area. Cubbon Park, considered to be the biggest lung space within the city, attracts hundreds of citizens who go there to breathe some fresh air. Walkers have accused the Horticulture Department, in charge of maintaining the park, of dereliction in their duties. On one hand, the department has issued many rules and regulations for park users, but there seems to be a lack of accountability in attending to the fallen trees.

The President of the Cubbon Park Walkers Association, Umesh Kumar, told Bangalore Mirror, "The fallen trees have not been removed and are still there. The trees fell two-and-a-half-months ago and are still not cleared. Previously, there was the excuse of election duty work, and now elections have come and gone, but the trees remain. The fallen trees pose a huge inconvenience to walkers. We don't know why the Horticulture Department is not acting in this regard."

Horticulture Department officials said that the delay was caused due to pending approval for clearance. "We submitted the letter to the Forest Department of BBMP for approval to cut the trees. We have received the approval, and we are in the process of axing and removing them.

As of now, the fallen trees remain only in a few places. We were waiting for permission from BBMP, which we received last week. Around 95% of the work is completed. Additionally, a lot of branches have also fallen due to heavy winds," said a senior official from the department.

Tech snag on Purple Line causes chaos

Metro commuters travelling on the Purple Line experienced delays due to technical snags on Tuesday morning.

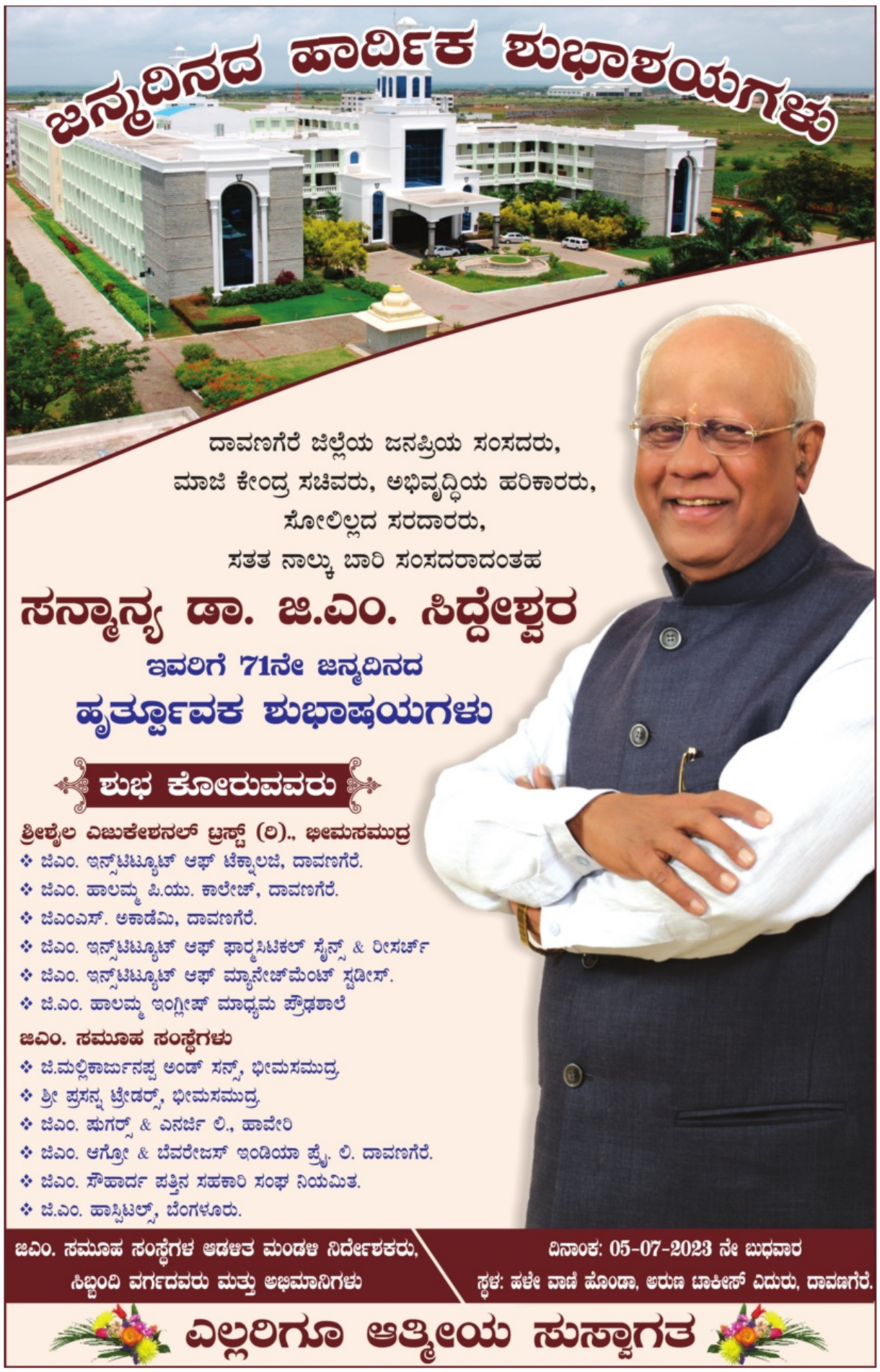
There was a huge rush and delay in metro trains arriving along the Purple Line. Passengers were forced to travel in crowded coaches or expect delays in commute.

The train ran at the frequency of 10-15 minutes. However, commuters only became aware of the situation after reaching inside and were upset about the lack of communication.

Metro officials said that the issue was a result of signalling issues. However, the issue was resolved at 12 pm. "Normalcy of services on the Purple Line has been restored from 12.08 pm today and are running as per schedule." tweeted the official Twitter handle of BMRCL.

The 39.4-km long Purple Line is part of the Namma Metro Rail Line and has 36 stations spanning from Kengeri to Baiyappanahalli.

It also passes through some of the prominent city areas like Majestic Railways Station, MG road, Trinity Circle, Whitefield and KR Puram making the technical snags inconvenience countless office goers and commuters. **BMB**



Save Karnataka elephants from electrical wires

NGOs are working on human-wildlife conflict issues especially to protect elephants

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Over the last six months (between January and June 2023), Karnataka has witnessed a large number of elephant deaths. According to the current data, a total of 22 elephants lost their lives, out of which six of them fell victim to electrocution. This alarming rise in electrocution cases has raised concerns among wildlife conservationists and researchers.

Out of the six, two deaths were reported from Virajpet, while one each was from Mandya, Koppa WP, DB Kuppe, and Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve. This includes the recent electrocution of an elephant in DB Kuppe of Nagarhole tiger reserve on June 29.

Interestingly, 17 elephants died between January and June 2022 and only two cases of electrocution were registered. Similarly between January and June 2021, while 32 death were reported, only two elephants died of electrocution.

"The committee consists of officials from Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), panchayat, local electricity supply company, and police officer. One of the ideas behind formulating this committee was to keep power thefts under check and protect the elephants. However, the large number of elephants dying due to electrocution only indicates that these committees are not on their toes," said Joseph Hoover, a former member of the State Board for Wildlife and founder of United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

"We got to know about the incident before the department could get the whiff. This indicates that something is amiss," added Hoover.

However, according to the KFD, while the department is grappling with the electrocution of elephants as an issue, measures are being taken to keep such incidents under control.

"While some of the electrocution cases are due to sagging electric lines, there is no denying the elephants are being electrocuted deliberately as well. The department has taken a tough stand on the DB Kuppe case. Our entire team is working on apprehending the offender. Although the family responsible for killing the elephant has run away to Kerala, we will ensure that they are nabbed, and a case of poaching is filed. We will make sure that they are prosecuted," said Kumar Pushkar, APCCF (wildlife), Karnataka Forest Department.

Experts say the need of the hour is to implement the Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA) to the letter and spread awareness about the issue among farmers at forest fringes.

"As per WLPA, the forest department can issue a non-bailable arrest warrant against persons responsible for the death of elephants, a schedule I animal as per the act. The offenders can immediately be arrested and prosecuted as per the law. However, the law is never implemented in true spirit. Sometimes, the process of filing an FIR takes months. The department should also consider spreading more awareness among the farmers about subsidies available in the event of such conflict," said Daniel Sukumar Das, director of the Wildlife Conservation Foundation.

The forest department can issue a non-bailable arrest warrant against persons responsible for the death of elephants

Conservationists say a case in point is that of the Bandipur area where the elephant death cases due to electrocution have reduced to zero.

"Many NGOs are working in the region exclusively on human-wildlife conflict issues. Farmers are being educated about it and immediate disbursement of compensation is ensured in the event of crop raids by elephants or other wildlife. We are trying to solve the farmers' problems, and this leads to an increase in their tolerance levels towards wildlife," said a conservationist working in the area.

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(II) Mode for submission of Application: Eligible candidates can submit their application along with all relevant documents supporting the eligibility and experience to e-mail ID: **md@kptcl.com**

(III) Monthly Consolidated Remuneration: As per prevailing market standards.

(IV) Last date for submission of application: 11.07.2023 (5.30 p.m.)

(V) Candidates may appear for an interview along with the relevant documents at the Board Room, 1st Floor, Corporate Office, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 009 **on 12.07.2023 at 3.00 PM.**

Sd/-Director (Admn.& HR), KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009.

Karnataka EVs face road tax shock

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The joyride of electric vehicles (EVs) in Karnataka may soon hit brakes as the State Government plans to impose road tax on these vehicles. Currently, EVs enjoy an exemption from road tax, but this new development may lead to an increase in their prices.

The sales of EVs have witnessed a steady increase, with the current number of registered vehicles in the state standing at 2.36 lakh. Karnataka was one of the first states to introduce an EV policy back in 2016, exempting both four-wheeler and two-wheeler EVs from paying road tax as of April 1, 2016, and 2017, respectively.

However, the government is now considering the elimination of this zero per cent road tax exemption and instead proposing a 50 per cent road tax. The state's road transport authority has submitted a proposal to this effect, an official mentioned.

Currently, road tax for internal combustion engine (ICE) two-wheelers is calculated as follows:

- Vehicles costing Rs 50,000 and below attract a 10 per cent road tax, which increases to 12 per cent for vehicles priced between Rs 50,000 and Rs 1 lakh.
- Vehicles priced above Rs 1 lakh are required to pay 18 per cent as road tax.

For four-wheelers, the road tax is 13 per cent for vehicles below Rs 5 lakh, 14 per cent for those costing between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh, 17 per cent for vehicles priced between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 20 lakh, and a flat 18 per cent for vehicles costing Rs 20 lakh and above.

Among the registered EVs, two-wheelers hold the lion's share, with 83 per cent of the vehicles registered in the last five financial years. EV two-wheelers hold 87.39 per cent of the market share, followed by three-wheelers at 7.10 per cent, and the remaining are four-wheelers (9,849). While EV sales are spread across Karnataka, Bengaluru has emerged as the leader, with 1,09,79,984 EVs registered, constituting 36.64 per cent of the total registered EVs in the state.

Sandhya R, a techie said, "The EV adoption still has uncertainties surrounding battery longevity, high replacement costs, lack of servicing infrastructure, and other related issues. Considering the relatively higher costs of EVs compared to internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles in many cases, I request the government continue zero road tax for EVs in the coming years." The reduction in subsidies has been implemented by the Central Government.

More police stations set to crack QR code system

System that allows visitors to rate police station experience is a hit; will be implemented at all stations in city

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Visitors to police stations will soon have the opportunity to rate their experience through a QR code-based rating system, which will be implemented across all police stations. After witnessing success in the South East region, City Police Commissioner, B Dayananda has called for the adoption of a similar model in all stations.

Under this new system, posters containing QR codes will be prominently displayed throughout the police stations. Visitors can simply scan the code and provide ratings for their station experience, including evaluating the behaviour of the police. It is anticipated that this innovative approach will also help combat corruption within the police force. The QR code feedback received will be diligently monitored by the respective Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs).

Initially, this facility was introduced in 14 police stations within the South East Division, spearheaded by DCP (South East) CK Baba. Senior police officials acknowledged the existence of issues within these stations, potentially stemming from a communication gap. Despite the presence of cameras inside the stations, complaints have persisted. Consequently, a pilot project was undertaken in the South East Division, encompassing the 14 jurisdictional law and order police stations.

Each police station will be adorned with banners prominently displaying QR codes. People are strongly encouraged to scan these codes, which will direct them to a website featuring multiple questionnaires. Once scanned, a complainant can provide feedback. However, an important concern arises regarding the seriousness with which this feedback will be taken. A senior police official said, "The QR code-based feedback is invaluable for both complainants and police officers. We urge individuals to share their feedback honestly and without fear. With the right feedback, we can take appropriate action. We will review the feedback on a daily basis, every evening, and make efforts to resolve any identified issues. Although positive changes have occurred recently, people still hesitate to approach police stations to voice their views or concerns. Several incidents have been reported where complainants may have received appropriate assistance at a lower level. This is likely the reason why individuals seek to escalate their issues to higher authorities." This initiative has also been implemented in police stations in Mysuru as well.

> **"There are reports of corruption, but people hesitate to file complaints due to fears of retaliation. The QR code system will empower us**
>
> – Prasanna Kumar, techie

Welcoming the move, Prasanna Kumar, a techie, said, "This idea looks really cool because, despite awareness campaigns, people are still apprehensive about visiting a police station, even if it's to file a complaint. There are often reports of corruption, but many hesitate to file complaints against the police due to fears of retaliation. I believe that the QR code system will empower us to register our experiences, as it will be monitored by higher-ranking officials. The rating has become a common practice for tech-savvy individuals to share their experiences when purchasing any product. Therefore, in a tech-savvy city like Bengaluru, the introduction of an experience rating system for police stations is definitely a most awaited one."

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Visitors can scan the QR codes on display at the police station to give feedback on the behaviour of the police officials

Uproar in Assembly over Cong's guarantees

Karnataka Assembly on Tuesday witnessed uproarious scenes due to protests by the BJP against the ruling Congress leading to four adjournments by Speaker UT Khader.

As planned, the opposition BJP staged protests inside and outside the Assembly alleging injustice and cheating by the ruling Congress in the name of five guarantees. Despite the commotion, Speaker Khader conducted the Question Hour and the Call Attention Motion.

Soon after the call attention motion, the Speaker adjourned the House till Wednesday morning.

Khader also announced the extension of the Assembly session till July 21 instead of July 14 as decided earlier. While former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai led the agitation inside the Assembly, former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel, BJP MP DV Sadananda Gowda joined hundreds of BJP workers at the Freedom Park here to protest against the government.

Yediyurappa charged the Congress with 'misleading' people through their five guarantees. "Our agitation is against the failure of fulfilling the five guarantees. We are also opposing the government's stand to withdraw the anti-conversion and anti-cow slaughter laws, which our government had introduced in the past," he said.

Later talking to reporters, Yediyurappa, BJP Parliamentary Board member, backed JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy's allegation of "transfer business", referring to alleged corruption in the state. – PTI

BJP leaders protest at Freedom Park on Tuesday

Decentralisation not at work

Empty assurances, as citizens still await resumption of ward committee meetings

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Ward Samiti Balaga, a coalition of citizens dedicated to strengthening ward committees, recently reached out to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief Tushar Giri Nath, demanding the resumption of ward committee meetings that came to a halt several months ago.

Last month, the citizens met with the commissioner and submitted a requisition letter addressing the issue.

"While speaking to the commissioner and submitting the letter, we were informed that the zonal and joint commissioners of BBMP would receive appropriate instructions, and the meetings would resume soon. However, we are yet to receive formal information regarding the timeline," stated a member of the Bengaluru Ward Samiti Balaga and a resident of Dodda Bidarakallu in the Raja Rajeshwari Nagara zone.

With the ward committee meetings on hold, citizens are concerned about the accumulation of civic issues in their respective areas.

BangaloreMirror
Several wards in the city have not had meetings since February. As civic issues pile up, citizens want to put it back on the table
CITIZEN & THE ART OF MAINTENANCE

BM had reported on June 7 that citizens were demanding resumption of ward meetings

Abrupt halt

"The last meeting in our area was held in March, and since then, no further meetings have taken place. It used to serve as a vital platform for citizens to voice their concerns and address issues. Now, there is no means for us to reach out to officials, and the backlog of civic problems is growing while BBMP officials are less active," expressed a resident from the Vasant Nagar area.

Civic activists emphasise that ward committees, comprising citizen representatives, government officials, and elected representatives, played a crucial role in expediting the resolution of local civic issues. They fostered citizen participation and facilitated the decentralisation of power.

"Ordinary citizens face difficulties in approaching BBMP officials to resolve their issues. The ward committee members represented the common voice, but even our messages seem to be ignored. We have been raising various issues and urging higher officials to reinstate the meetings, but there is a lack of clarity," highlighted Rajkumar Dugar, founder of Citizen for Citizen. Citizens and activists assert that BBMP should take immediate measures to resume these meetings. "In our area, ward committee meetings have not taken place since March. We utilised these platforms to address concerns regarding basic amenities. Currently, we are dependent on BBMP helplines, which is time-consuming. With monsoon upon us, the stormwater drains in our area require attention, and we could have raised this issue during one.

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I Minal Dharwadkar W/O, Deepak Gundurao Dharwadkar R/o W-403,45/7,satya Green Apartment,near Mahesh Bhoopathy Tennis Academy,thindlu,vidyaranyapura,bengaluru-560097 have changed my name to Minal Deepak Dharwadkar

I, Soundharya Ravi w/o Ravi B S R/o 3, 1st main 1st cross, Kengeri check post Babasahebara palya, Bengaluru 560060 have changed my minor son name from Sudhanva Ravi to SUDHANVA RAVI SURYA affidavit Dt.04/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Aishwarya Candade, D/o. Arunkumar Krishna Candade, R/o. GF-03, Elegant Palace, 1st Cross, Yelachenahalli, B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Aishwarya Arunkumar Candade for all purpose.

I, Rakesh Kumar Jain S/O, Sunderlal Jain R/o Flat No : D-803 , Candeur Landmark, Gunjur, Bengaluru 560087 have changed my name to Rakesh Jain for all purposes

I, Nagesha Shivamadaiah s/o Shivamadaiah R/o #480, Kalyani 5th main, 15th cross, D-group layout, Srigandhakavalu Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Dr. Nagesh Shivamadaiah affidavit Dt.04/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Shailesh S Naik R/o Flat N0-407,aishwarya Kancharla Grand,4th Floor,nri Layout,n0.145 And 146,11th Main Road,kalkere Horamavu,bengaluru-560043 have changed my minor daughter's name from Chavi to Chavi Shailesh

I Atma Vidhani/Atma J Vidhani/Atma Jethanand Vidhani R/a C-403, Saket Callipolis , Carmelaram Post, B'lore-560035 have changed my name to Atma Vidhani Routray vide affidavit dt 04.07.2023, before notary B.M.Chandrashekar

I, Venkatesha Chikkaiah s/o Chikkaiah R/o 14, Helle Kodigehalli, Kudalasangama Nagar, Gollarahatti, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Venkatesh Chikkaiah affidavit Dt.04/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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I Arati Gajanan Gharpure R/O Flat No-311,Vaastu Hill View-2, Bangarappa road, RR Nagar, B'luru 560098 have changed my name to Aarati Sameer Kulkarni vide affidavit dt 01/07/2023 sworn before notary S.R.Thulasikrishna.

I, Naresh Babu Dc R/o No 25 Sri Parna 12th Cross, Pampa Extention, Kempapura Hebbal Bangalore 560024 have changed my minor son's name from Tanav Ram D N to Tanav Ram Dupati for all purposes.

I, Abdul Razack s/o Mohammed Hussain R/o #6/1, 11th Cross, Near Seema Textoriam, Lalbagh Fort Road, Doddamavalli, B'luru-560004. have changed my name to Abdul Razak for all purposes.

I Samrudh Saya Praveen S/O. Praveen S R R/o Deviram garden,2nd main,Ingr,Blr-8 have changed my name to Samrudh Praveen, affidavit dated 03-07-2023 for all purposes

I, Venkatesh Ashok Mahale R/o Hulimavu Bengaluru have changed my minor son's name from Shubhang Mahale to Shubhang Venkatesh Mahale

I, Sandeep Kumar Jain S/O, Rakesh Jain R/o Flat No D-803 Candeur Landmark, Gunjur, Bengaluru 560087 have changed my name to Sandeep Jain for all purposes.

I Jagga Jhansi Lakshmi W/O, V Sridhar R/o #14 Block-b Nianp Staff Quarters, Adugodi, Hosur Road, Bangalore-30 have changed my name to S Jhansi Lakshmi for all purposes

I, Praveenkumar Adaiyur Palaniappan R/o # 15-139 A, Kattampatty, Surappalli, Salem, Tamil Nadu-636501, have changed my name to Praveenkumar Palaniappan

I, Palaniappan Adaiyur Nallappa Gounder R/o # 15-139 A, Kattampatty, Surappalli, Salem, Tamil Nadu-636501, have changed my name to Palaniappan Nallappagoundar

I, Afsar Ahmed R/o #62, H.n Mansion, 5th A Cross, Kanakanagar, Bengaluru - 560032. have changed my minor son's name from Adnan to Shaik Adnan Ahmed

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NEVER TOO OLD TO GET A MOVE ON

Older adults who remain more active have better quality of life: Study

Researchers have discovered that when persons are over sixty, there is a correlation between less physical activity and a lower quality of life.The study was published in the journal, Health and Quality of Life Outcomes.

The same held true for increases in sedentary activities like TV watching and reading. This, according to the researchers, emphasises the necessity of motivating older persons to keep active.

Physical activity is known to lower your chance of developing a number of diseases, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer, especially when it is moderately intense and increases your heart rate. Adults should engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity exercise each week, according to the NHS.

Additionally, it is advised that older persons alternate extended stretches of inactivity with brief moments of light movement, or at the very least, standing, as this has clear advantages for their health.

A team led by researchers at the University of Cambridge examined activity levels among 1,433 participants aged 60 and above using accelerometers. The participants had been recruited to the EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer)-Norfolk study.

Alongside this, the team also looked at health-related quality of life, a measure of health and well-being that includes pain, ability to care for yourself and anxiety/mood. Participants were given a score between 0 (worst quality of life) and 1 (best) based on their responses to a questionnaire. Lower quality of life scores are linked with an increased risk of hospitalisation, worse outcomes following hospitalisation, and early death.

Participants were followed up an average of just under six years later to look at changes in their behaviour and quality of life.

On average, six years after their first assessment, both men and women were doing around 24 minutes less moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per day. At the same time, the total sedentary time increased by an average of around 33 minutes a day for men and around 38 minutes a day for women.

Those individuals who did more moderate-to-vigorous physical activity and spent less time sedentary at their first assessment had a higher quality of life later on. An hour a day spent more actively was associated with a 0.02 higher quality of life score.

For every minute a day less of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity measured six years after the first assessment, quality of life scores dropped by 0.03. This means that an individual who spent 15 minutes a day less engaged in such activity would have seen their score drop by 0.45.

Increases in sedentary behaviours were also associated with poorer quality of life - a drop in the score of 0.012 for every minute a day increase in total sedentary time six years after the first measurement. This means that an individual who spent 15 minutes a day more sitting down would have seen their score drop by 0.18.

To put the results into a clinical context, a 0.1 point improvement in quality of life scores has previously been associated with a 6.9% reduction in early death and a 4.2% reduction in risk of hospitalisation.

Dr Dharani Yerrakalva from the Department of Public Health and Primary Care at the University of Cambridge said: "Keeping yourself active and limiting - and where you can, breaking up - the amount of time you spend sitting down is really important whatever stage of life you're at. This seems to be particularly important in later life, when it can lead to potentially significant improvements to your quality of life and your physical and mental wellbeing."

Because the team measured physical activity and sedentary behaviour at different points of time, they say they can be reasonably confident that they have shown a causal link - that is, that quality of life improves because people remain more physically active, for example.

Dr Yerrakalva added: "There are several ways in which improvements in our physical behaviours might help maintain a better quality of life. For example, more physical activity reduces pain in common conditions such as osteoarthritis, and we know that being more physically active improves muscle strength which allows older adults to continue to care for themselves. Similarly, depression and anxiety are linked to quality of life, and can be improved by being more active and less sedentary." —ANI

MIRRORLIGHTS

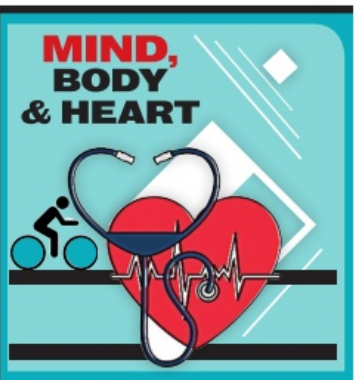
Researchers reveal how resistance training can prevent Alzheimer's disease

Regular physical exercise, such as resistance training, can help to prevent Alzheimer's disease or postpone the onset of symptoms, and it is a simple and inexpensive therapy for Alzheimer's patients.

This is the conclusion of a paper published in Frontiers in Neuroscience by Brazilian researchers from the Federal University of S. Paulo (UNIFESP) and the University of S. Paulo (USP).

Although most Alzheimer's patients and older individuals are unlikely to be able to conduct long daily runs or other high-intensity aerobic workouts, these activities are the subject of most scientific investigations on the disease. Resistance exercise is recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the greatest way to train balance, improve posture, and reduce falls.

Resistance training involves contracting particular muscles against external resistance and is seen as a vital technique for increasing muscle mass, strength, and bone density, as well as improving overall body composition, functional ability, and balance. It also aids in the prevention or treatment of sarcopenia (muscle atrophy), making daily chores simpler to complete. — ANI



All you need to know about...

Parkinson's alert

What smartwatches can do
Smartwatches could identify Parkinson's disease up to seven years before hallmark symptoms appear and a clinical diagnosis can be made, according to new research.

In combo with AI
Researchers from Cardiff University in the UK showed that combining smartwatch data of just one week with artificial intelligence (AI) can help identify people who would about seven years later go on to develop Parkinson's disease.

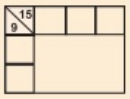
Screening tool
They say this could be used as a new screening tool for Parkinson's disease, which would enable detection of the disorder at a much earlier stage than current methods allow.
"Smart watch data is easily accessible and low-cost. By using this type of data, we would potentially be able to identify individuals in the very early stages of Parkinson's disease within the general population," said Dr Cynthia Sandor, from the UK Dementia Research Institute at Cardiff University.

About Parkinson's
Parkinson's affects cells in the brain called dopaminergic neurons, located in an area of the brain known as the substantia nigra.
It causes motor symptoms such as tremor, rigidity (stiffness), and slowness of movement.

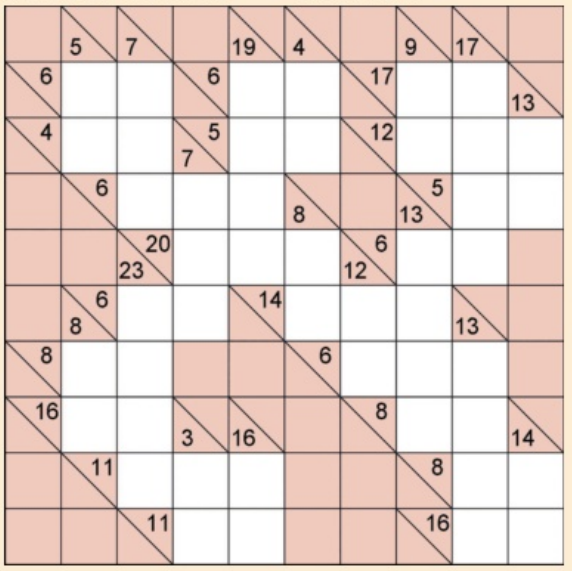
Why do we need to detect early changes
By the time symptoms of Parkinson's begin to show, and a clinical diagnosis can be made, more than half of the cells in the substantia nigra will already have died.
Therefore, there is a need for cheap, reliable and easily accessible methods to detect early changes so that intervention can be made before the disease causes extensive damage to the brain, the researchers said. —ANI

Kakuro

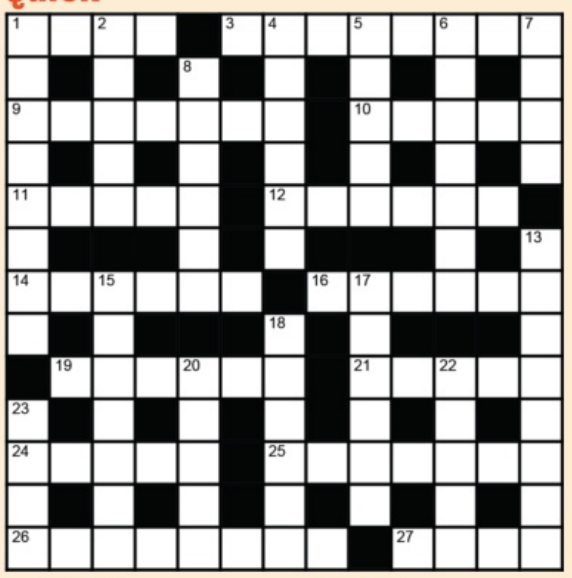
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Runs slowly (4)
3 Noticed or witnessed (8)
9 Gigantic (7)
10 Cut finely (5)
11 Part-time actor (5)
12 Accounts book (6)
14 Take exception (6)
16 Remained (6)
19 An organism in the earlier stages of its development (6)
21 Stairway part (5)
24 Flat and even (5)
25 Former academics (7)
26 Truthfulness (8)
27 Hang limply (4)

DOWN

1 Applied brakes forcibly? (6,2)
2 Whole series of recognised musical notes? (5)
4 On ___ of : in the interest of? (6)
5 Relaxed (5)
6 Music-hall medley (7)
7 Extinct bird (4)
8 Pattern of small tiles (6)
13 Decorating (8)
15 Restaurant at the Leela Place (7)
17 Large bird (6)
18 Agitate, anger or arouse (6)
20 Survivor (5)
22 Sales pitch (5)
23 East European (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS P

CPF NPWDF QAWYDFV NHCP CPF NWADO HE CPJC IWWDE JZO IJZJCHGE JAF JDNJXE EW GFACJHZ WI CPFVEFDTFE, YLC NHEFA QFWQDF EW ILDD WI OWLYCE.

Linemaro

You are to me a delicious torment

Mindchow

Distrust any enterprise that requires new clothes

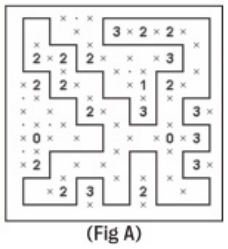
Joke of the day

Why did Robid Hood steal only from the rich? Because the poor have nothing worth taking

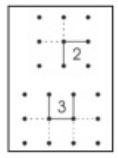
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

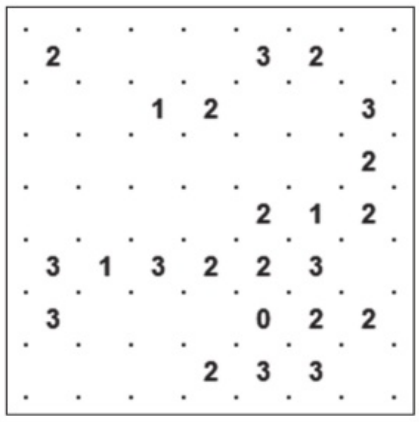


(Fig B) Not Allowed

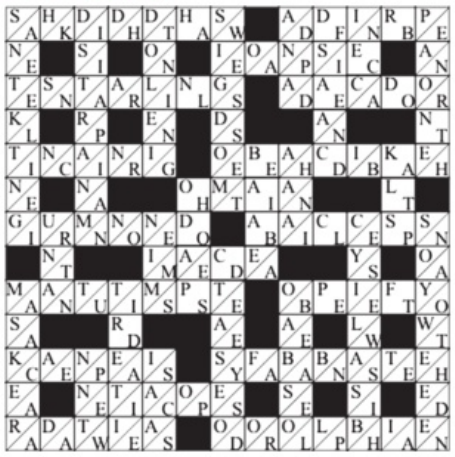
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



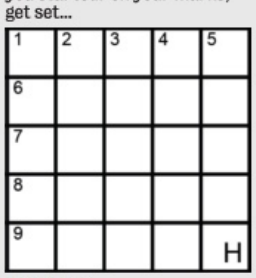
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

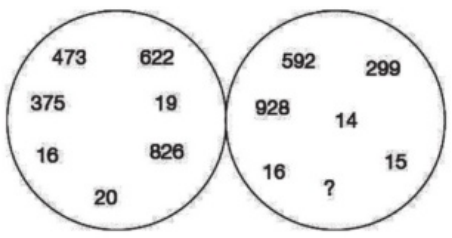
1 Papal; 6 Heirs; 7 Can go; 8 Toots; 9 To Hot

DOWN

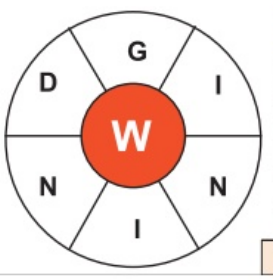
1 Tacos; 2 To hop; 3 To Pin; 4 Gator; 5 Hales

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

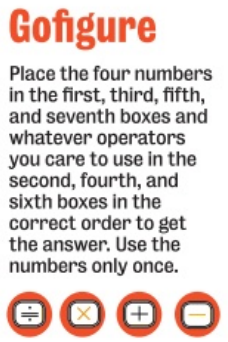
SudokuChallenge

7			4			8		
					8		4	
		9					2	1
1	3		5	9	2		8	
			3		4			
	7		1	8	6		5	3
3	8					4		
	1		2					
		7			1			9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 4
1 3 4 7

Medium = 45
2 3 7 8

Hard = 3
1 3 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

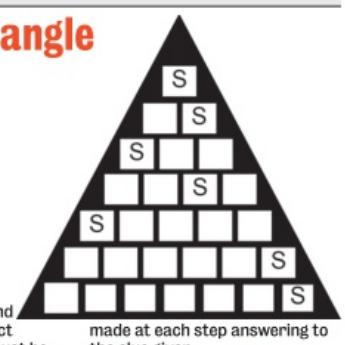
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Gap is different. 4. Bush is moved. 5. Image on TV screen is reversed. 6. Table leg different.

Riddler

Cyril's bucket is one-sixth full, while Charlie's is half-full. If one-third of the contents of Charlie's bucket were poured into Cyril's bucket, it would fill Cyril's bucket completely. If there is a total of 80 pints of water in the two buckets, how much does Cyril's bucket hold when full?

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Similar to
3 Posed
4 Endure
5 Trite
6 Track shoes
7 Door fasteners



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

THERE.' THAT'S THE LAST BOTTLE, SON
NOW, THE SECRET OF MAKING GREENBERRY WINE IS PROPER AGING
4-17
...SO LET'S GET STARTED. COUNT TO A HUNDRED BY TWOS

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

WHERE'S MARY TODAY?
SHE DROVE THE SENIOR CLASS TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. LAST WEEK...
SO SHE'S GOING TO BE IN REHAB FOR A FEW WEEKS!
4-24

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, some dissatisfaction may come into your mind. You may feel lazy and dull, which affects the current speed of a project or work, causing delays. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making any important decisions regarding marriage. Job seekers may face disappointments in terms of interviews. You will waste your precious time on worthless tasks.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull, and your focus may be lost towards your targets. You may hypothetically make some decisions that seem beyond reality. Your expectations may be very high, and due to impatience, you are not able to fulfil them, which may leave you upset. You are advised to be careful during adventure tours and rush driving. However, by afternoon, your profits may increase, and you may likely start working with some new clients, leading to business growth in the near future.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may likely control your internal weaknesses after analysing yourself. You may feel confident, and this can help you fight against addictions and other harmful habits. Singles are likely to find a good match, and lovebirds now have clarity in their relationship. You may expect some opportunities for overseas travel. Students will receive good news in terms of academics.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel better, and situations may be under control. Your network may help you in the work front, and you may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and love life. With the help of creativity, you may bring some artifacts or creative stuff for your family. You may also plan to watch movies or go for outings with friends or family.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may get tired due to overworking, making you lazy and careless. It is advised to keep patience. If you are planning an adventure tour, it is recommended to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may experience backache, nervous system issues, liver-related problems, and skin issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your creativity may be high, and you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some items to renovate your house or office, which can enhance your social status. There is likely to be some harmony with your spouse, which creates domestic harmony. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may be settled. You may receive good news regarding litigations.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your creativity may be high, and you may attend some creative events. The money that was stuck may be recovered now. Job seekers are advised to update their knowledge with the latest information. Students are advised to put in more effort in their academics.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy with your children's academics, and you may plan for their higher studies as well. Couples may receive good news regarding their children. You may consider updating your skills and making plans for higher studies to get a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate.

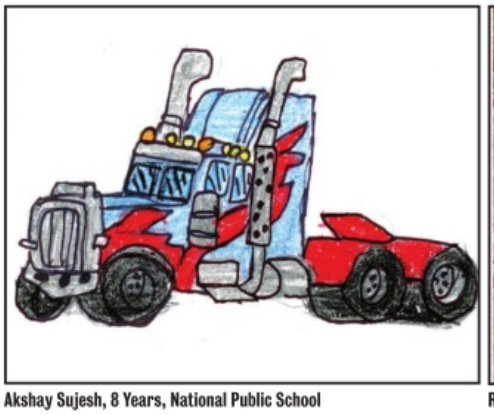
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be escaping from reality and not able to fulfil your responsibilities. Your investments may result in losses. It is advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature. Concerns about the health of elders may make you upset. If you plan to reconstruct your house, it is recommended to postpone the renovation for a while.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may help needy people, which can increase your social respect. You may also put in a hundred percent effort in your work, allowing you to complete it before the deadline. You may hear some good news from your siblings. Too much work may make you tired, so it is advised to avoid stress today, as it can affect both your professional and personal life. Practice meditation and fasting today.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy with family social events and gatherings. You may become more polite and amiable with the people around you, which can enhance your image among relatives and friends. You might spend money on buying artifacts and other items that improve your social status. Additionally, there may be good news coming from one of your close relatives.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, disputes with your siblings may be settled, boosting your relationship with them. Your energy and vitality seem to be good, which will help you easily complete difficult projects. After a short work-related trip, you may expand your network. Furthermore, by helping someone in need, you can elevate your social status.

KIDZONE



Akshay Sujesh, 8 Years, National Public School

Rejin Joy, 11 Years, Christ Academy

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(49*(16/25)*(25/4))/(1/(1/7)) =
√(49*(4/1)*(1/1))/7 =
√(49*4)/7 =
7*2/7 =
14/7 = 2

STRIKE OUT

S	K	I	D	D	A	W	A	F	I	R	E			
E	S	O	I	O	N	I	C	A						
E	N	T	A	I	L	S		D	E	C	O	R		
K	I	C	I	N	G		O	B	A	D	I	A	H	
K	R	R	N		D		N			T				
N		A		O	M	A	N			L				
G	U	N	N	E	D		B	I	C	E	P	S		
M	A	T	I	S	S	E		B	E	E	F	Y		
A		R		A		A		L		W				
K	E	N	A	I		S	A	B	A	T	H			
R	A	T	E	S		D	O	L	P	H	I	N		
E		E	T	A	P	E		E		S		E		
S	H	I	R	E		V	E	R	A	C	I	T	Y	
A		M		E		A		A		O				
M	A	M	O	T	H		S	H	R	E	D			
E	X	T	R	A		L	E	D	G	E	R			
D		I		F				T			A			
O	B	J	E	C	T		S	T	A	Y	E	D		
N		A		F		U				O				
E	M	B	R	Y	O		R	I	S	E	R			
S	A		E	M		K		P		N				
L	E	V	E	L		E	M	E	R	I	T	I		
A		L		E				R						
J	O	G	S		O	B	S	E	R	V	E	D		

QUICK

V	E	R	A	C	I	T	Y		F	L	A	G		
A		A		I		N		Y		E		N		
L	E	V	E	L		E	M	E	R	I	T	I		
S	A		E	M		K		P		R	I	S	E	R
E	M	B	R	Y	O		R	I	S	E		O		
N		A		F		U				O				
O	B	J	E	C	T		S	T	A	Y	E	D		
D		I		F				T			A			
M	U	S		A		E		I		O				
E	X	T	R	A		L	E	D	G	E	R			
M	A	M	O	T	H		S	H	R	E	D			
A		M		E		A		A		O				
J	O	G	S		O	B	S	E	R	V	E	D		

MENSA PUZZLE
10: each two-figure number is the sum of the digits of one of the three-figure numbers in the opposite circle

QUOTE UNCODE
The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts.

SUDOKU

7	2	3	4	1	5	8	9	6
6	5	1	9	2	8	3	4	7
8	4	9	6	3	7	5	2	1
1	3	6	5	9	2	7	8	4
5	9	8	3	7	4	1	6	2
2	7	4	1	8	6	9	5	3
3	8	2	7	6	9	4	1	5
9	1	5	2	4	3	6	7	8
4	6	7	8	5	1	2	3	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sat, Last, Stale, Cleats, Latches.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 x 4 – 1 – 7 = 4
Medium
8 – 2 x 7 + 3 = 45
Hard
7 + 2 / 3 x 1 = 3

LOOP

KAKURO

RIDDLER 30 pints

FAST FIVE

A	P	P	A	L
S	H	I	R	E
C	O	N	G	A
O	T	T	O	S
T	O	O	T	H

BULL'S EYE
wind, WINDING, wing, winling

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Aditi forever As Imran Khan and Genelia Deshmukh-starrer ' Jaane Tu..Ya Jaane Na' completed 15 years on Tuesday, Genelia took to Instagram and wrote, "15 years of Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na... N I'm just glad I was and will always be Aditi"

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Age no bar

Vaijanath Biradar, a 71-year-old character artiste of Sandalwood, is super excited about the success of his latest movie 90 Bidi Manig Nadi at the box office. Vaijanath may very well be the only actor above 70 in Sandalwood to play a lead role.

"It gives me immense happiness to share the feedback received from those who watched my recent movie. I play a drunkard who quits liquor after realising its ill effects. More than 10 people, after watching the movie at Anupama Theater, assured me that they too would quit drinking. Many people across the state would have taken similar decisions after watching the movie," says Biradar.

It is said that audiences have praised Biradar for his dancing skills. "I was waiting at Anupama Theater for the last three days. Many from the audience shook hands with me and congratulated me for my performance, especially for my jig with Neetha Maindargi," says Biradar.

He said that 90 Bidi Manig Nadi is the first movie; among the 500 movies he has acted in, to become a success at the box office. "Though no director or producer came forward for my call sheet to play the lead role, I hope to get an opportunity to play the lead role in movies in the near future. As of now, I am playing character roles in four Kannada movies," he said.

Gana ready for release

Tollywood director Hari Prasad Jakka debuts in Sandalwood with Gana. Prajwal Devaraj, who has been busy acting in movies such as Mafia and Mummy, plays the lead in Gana.

"Hari Prasada Jakka and his team approached me last year to make this movie. They told me to help them with getting technicians and other cast members. I am very happy they have completed a hassle-free shoot. Producer Parthu would organise events to promote the film," said Prajwal.

Prajwal appreciated his co-stars Yasha Shivakumar and Vedika Kumar for their cooperation. "Vedika Kumar plays a different role in this movie which presents two timelines. It has commercial elements, entertainment and sentiments," he said.

A function was organised at MMB Legacy on Monday to release the teaser of the movie. Prajwal's mother Chandralekha released the teaser. "My son's birthday is on July 4. Initially, he did not tell me that I have to release the teaser of this movie. I came to know about it only after coming here. I want all of you to bless my son," said Chandralekha. Vedika appreciated Prajwal for his acting skills. "Gana is my first movie with Prajwal. He is an amazing actor," she said.

All praise for a diva

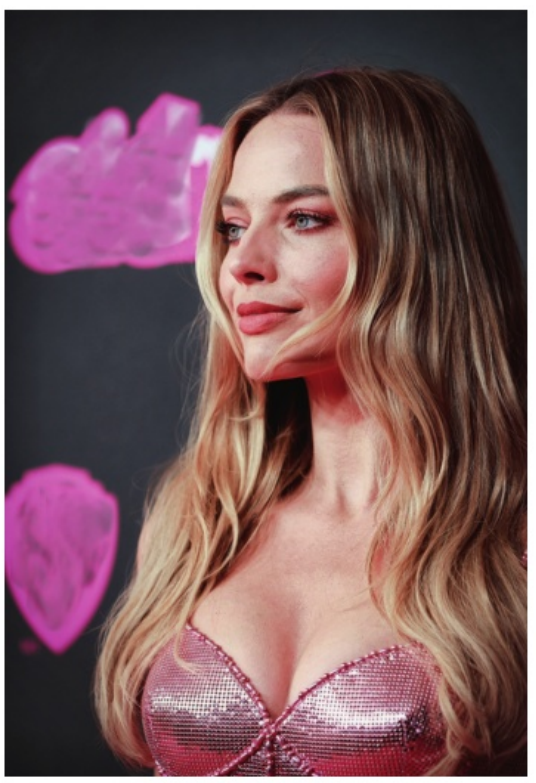
It is not very common that Rekha graces the cover of a fashion magazine, but when she does, she does it in such a way that everyone stops to take notice. The actress has been active in the movies since the 1970s but in the past decade she has sparingly taken up acting assignments and is spotted usually at award functions and tv shows. Earlier this year, Rekha made a rare appearance at a Dior event in Mumbai, where the fashion show did not start till she arrived.

Showering love on the veteran actress, Deepika Padukone told the magazine that Rekha's aura is magnetic and she can effortlessly captivate an entire audience with just a glance and her performances are a masterclass in acting. SRK mentioned that Rekha's charisma is unmatched.

In an interview talking about the new generation of actors, Rekha commented that today there is an avalanche of young talent with extraordinary skills and she is thoroughly impressed by their debut performances.

—ETimes

'Barbie' ban



Warner Bros.' highly anticipated movie "Barbie" has been banned in Vietnam, New York Post reported.

The film, directed by Greta Gerwig, was set to hit theatres in Vietnam on July 21, aligning with its big-screen release in most countries around the world.

Vietnam state media, however, announced that the movie will not be released due to a scene that includes a map using the "nine-dash line", a set of line segments that represent China's territorial claims in the South China Sea, which Vietnam claims violates its sovereignty.

"We do not grant license for the American movie 'Barbie' to release in Vietnam because it contains the offending image of the nine-dash line," said Vietnam state-run Tuoi Tre newspaper citing the head Department of Cinema Vi Kien Thanh.

Vi Kien Thanh said the decision was decided by Vietnam's National Film Evaluation Council.

The U-shaped line, which was first seen on maps in 1947, includes parts that Vietnam sees as its continental shelf, where it has awarded oil concessions. — ANI

'It is never easy'

Alia on experience of shooting post pregnancy

Actor Alia Bhatt, on Tuesday, shared her experience of shooting for the romantic song 'Tum Kya Mile' from the film 'Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' post her pregnancy.

Alia conducted an 'Ask me Anything' session on her Instagram account where several of her fans asked her questions regarding her upcoming film.

Replying to one of her fans, the 'Raazi' actor shared a picture on her stories and wrote, "this was from the last day of shoot.. I look tired but satisfied! Going back to work as a new mom in any profession will never be easy.. you feel various emotions all at once not to mention the major physical difference in ur energy.. but I am very grateful & feel very privileged and supported by a team and crew that was understanding. I feel for new mothers everywhere... especially those who have to resume work immediately Postpartum cause it's never easy. Vaibhavi mam would try plan her shots according to my nursing schedule, and my mom sister were babysitting whenever I was away!!! But it was my baby girls first trip to Kashmir and seeing the mountains through her eyes was just everything."

Alia tied the knot with actor Ranbir Kapoor on April 14, 2022, and announced their pregnancy in June 2022.

On November 6, last year, the couple welcomed their first child, a baby girl, named Raha. The power couple are yet to disclose the face of their little angel. — ANI